Secrets. H.—27—100,000—21-6-48.

Food and Agri (1954 ) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. No.

1407

Dated

---

[Despatch Abstract.]

Copy of letter No.L.1.408/49 dt. 24.8.49 from the Director of Agriculture, Madras to the Secretary to Government, Food Department, Madra

---

Sub:- Agriculture - Pests and diseases - Malabar and South Kanara District - Scheme for the control of cocoanut pests - Submitted.

Ref:- My letter No.L.1.1604/48 dt. 11.3.49 in reply to Government Development Memo.No.134097-A.II.48-1 dated 26.12.48.

---

In continuation of my letter cited above, I enclose herewit a 5 year scheme for the control of cocoanut pest on the West Coast at a total cost of Rs.61,000/- for transmission to the Indian Central Cocoanut Committee, Ernakulam.

Sd.R.M.Sundaram,
Director of Agriculture.

/True copy/

--

PEST:- Nephantis on cocoanut - Biological control Scheme -- West Coast proposals.

---

Need for the scheme:- 1. Malabar and South Kanara district command the largest area under cocoanuts in the whole Presidency with 3,67,000 and 49,500 acres respectively making up a total of 4,16,500 acres along the maincoastal belt in the two districts extending from Coondapur in the North to Pennani in the South a distance of nearly 250 miles. The Black headed caterpillar, "Nephantis Crinopa" is prevalent in the entire belt and in the Pesturian areas. Practically every year, the pest develops to a serious degree in some area or other causing s vere havoc and loss. It has been observed that a heavy infestation of Nephantis serinopa" reduces the yield by about 75 per cent.

The object of the present scheme is to intensify the activity of the different parasites and predature found on this pest by large scale laboratory rearings and liberations and thereby control the pest.

2. PREVIOUS WORK: Nephantis serinopa was reported on the West Coast in 1924 and in the course of two years the pest established itself on a 250 miles extent all along the coast. The Agricultural Department took up the investigation of its control and recommended as an immediate measure the cutting and burning of the affected leaves an operation made compulsory by enforcing the provisions of the Pest Act. A special staff of 3 Revenue Inspectors and about 30 climber coolies were engaged in this work from 1926-32.

In the meantime scientific studies persued indicated that the insect was parasitised by a large number of parasites and predators, some of which were amenable to laboratory rearing.

The larval parasites Perisierols Nephantidis and microbracon brevicornis, the parasite on the pupating caterpillar Elasmus nephantidis and the pupal parasite Trichospilus puplvora were bred in large numbers and liberated. Another larval parasite Apanteles taragame was recovered from some infested gardens in Salem district and introduced on the West Coast. The work of these parasites was so efficient that their rearing was undertaken in 3 laboratories, at Mangalore Calicut and Ponnani. At a later stage, a Boat laboratory was started for the benefit, of Ponnani Taluk. By 1933, the pest was reduced to insignificance.

Subsequently, the recrudencens of the pest in parts of Malabar and South Kanara districts necessitated the revival of the work for short periods. As these isolated attempts were

P.T.O.

not found very efficient in practice the present scheme is submitted for the establishment of two laboratories, one at Ponnani in Malabar and the other at Kasaragod in South Kanara District on a more eleborate basis for a period of five years.

3. Future Work: (Technical Programme):--

A. Nephantis serinopa, the black headed caterpillar of Cocoanut.

i. The laboratories will take up the mass rearing and release of Elophids, BETHYLIDS, MICROBRACONS AND ELASMUS parasites. The necessary nucleus material will be either collected locally or obtained from Coimbatore district.

(ii) Attempts to rear the pupal pre parasite STOMATOCERUS and the early larval parasites APANTELES which have not so far been bred under laboratory conditions, will be undertaken. These parasites survive during the hot season and will be of great use during that period when other parasites are not active.

(iii) A study of the ecological factors that favour the development of the pest will be made.

4. Venue of Work. The laboratories will be located in rented buildings at both Ponnani and Ka Kasaragod.

5. STAFF. (a) Each laboratory will be in charge of an Assistant assisted by a Fieldman and three coolies for collection of rearing materials etc.

(b) ADMINISTRATION:- The scheme will work under the guidance of the Plant Protection Officer (Entomology) Coimbatore. No separate travelling allowance has been preferred in the scheme for his visits to the laboratories.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION. As the entire laboratory equipment will have to be purchased now, a sum of Rs.3000/- for both the establishments is provided. The total cost of the scheme for five years works to about Rs.61,000/-. The total non recurring grant for purchase of Apparatus and materials comes to Rs.3000/- and Rs.58,000/- is towards recurring expenditure.

| (1) | First year. (2) | Second year. (3) | Third year (4) | Fourth year (5) | Fifth year. (6) | Total (7) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PAY OF OFFICERS: | | | | | | |
| Pay of Establishment. | | | | | | |
| Upper Subordinate --Assistants Rs.100-5-140-EB-10-200 Two. | Rs. 2520 | Rs. 2640 | Rs. 2760 | Rs. 2880 | Rs. 3000 | Rs. 13800 |
| Fieldman on Rs.45-2-55-1-60 Two | 1080 | 1128 | 1176 | 1224 | 1272 | 5880 |
| Total Rs. | 3600 | 3768 | 3936 | 4104 | 4272 | 19680 |
| Cost of living Allowance and Dearness allowance:- | | | | | | |
| Dearness allowance at Rs.24/-. 26/-, Rs.27/-, Rs.28/-, and Rs.29/- for the first, second, third fourth and fifth year for two Assistants. | 576 | 624 | 648 | 672 | 696 | 3216 |
| Fieldman at Rs.22/- p.m. two | 528 | 528 | 528 | 528 | 528 | 2640 |
| Total Rs. | 1104 | 1152 | 1176 | 1200 | 1224 | 5856 |

..Comtd..

| (1) | First year 2 | Second year 3 | Third year 4 | Fourth year 5 | Fifth year 6 | Total 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ravelling allowance. | | | | | | |
| Travelling allowance at Rs.50/-p.,.for two Assistants. | Rs. 1200 | Rs. 1200 | Rs. 1200 | Rs. 1200 | Rs. 1200 | Rs. 6000 |
| Travelling allowance at Rs.20/- p.m. for two Fieldman. | 480 | 480 | 480 | 480 | 480 | 2400 |
| Total | 1680 | 1680 | 1680 | 1680 | 1680 | 8400 |
| Total Pay and allowance. | Rs 6384 | 6600 | 6792 | 6984 | 7176 | 33936 |
| Contingencies - Nonrecurring:- | | | | | | |
| Purchase of apparatus and materials | 3000 | | | | | 3000 |
| Total | 3000 | | | | | 3000 |
| RECURRING: | | | | | | |
| 1. Rent for office labe-batory and at Rs.30/-p.m. for ~~six offi~~ two districts. | 720 | 720 | 720 | 720 | 720 | 3600 |
| 2. Wages of coolies and dearness allowance at Rs.32/- p.m. for six coolies. | 2304 | 2304 | 2304 | 2304 | 2304 | 11520 |
| 3. Tour allowance at Rs. Rs.0/00/0 a day for 20 days a month for 6 coolies. | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 4500 |
| 4. Miscellaneous laboratory and other charges at Rs.150/- for each laboratory | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 1500 |
| 5. Purchase of in-secticides | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 3000 |
| Total recurring Rs. | 4824 | 4824 | 4824 | 4824 | 4824 | 24120 |
| Total contingencies | 7824 | 7824 | 7824 | 7824 | 7824 | 27120 |
| Total expenditure. ..Rs. | 14208 | 11424 | 11616 | 11808 | 12000 | 61056 |

OR Rs.61,000/-.

/True copy/

Copy of Telephonic message from the Food Department to the Director of Agricul ure. R.T.O.

--

Sub:- Agriculture - Pests and Diseases. Malabar and South Kanara districts - Scheme for the control of coconut pests.

Ref:- Your ref.No.L.1.408/49.dt. 24.8.49.

---

It has been suggested that the recurring expenditure in the above scheme may be shared equally between this Government and the Indian Central Coconut Committees. Please offer your remarks on the above suggestion, very urgently.

/True copy/

P.T.O.

18.9.49

Copy of letter No.L.1/408-49 dt. 16.9.49 from the Director of Agriculture, Madras to the Secretart to the Government of Madras, Food and Agriculture Department.

---

Sub:- Agricutlture - Pests and diseases - Malabar and South Kanara Districts - Scheme for the control of Coconut pest.

Ref:- My letter No.L.1/408-49 dt. 24.8.1949.
2. Your Telephonic message dated 16th September 1949.

---

The recurring ccost of the scheme may be shared between the Government of Madras and the Indian Central Coconut Committee on 50:50

Sd. M.Kanti Raj,
For Director of Agriculture.

/True copy/

SS/18.9.

18.9.49

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.
***

Letter No.Ms.1407 dated 14th November 1949.

From
The Secretary,to Government,
Food and Agriculture Department,
Madras - 9.

To
The Secretary to the Indian Coconut Committee,
Ernakulam.

Sir,

Sub:- Agriculture - Indian Council of Agricultural of Research - Pests and diseases - Malabar and South Kanara Districts - Scheme for the control of coconut pests - Forwarded.

---

I am directed to forward herewith a scheme prepared by the Director of Agriculture, Madras for the control by biological means of the black headed Caterpillar pests of coconuts in the Malabar and South Kanara Districts. The Scheme is to be worked for a period of 5 years and is estimated to cost of Rs.58,000/- recurring and Rs.3,000/- non-recurring. The Government of Madras consider that the recurring expenditure in the scheme should be shared equally between to Indian Central Coconut Committee and the Provincial Government on a 50:50 basis as usual. The Non-recurring expenditure of Rs.3000/- will be borne by this Government, in full. I am to request that the approval of the Committee to the working of the scheme on the above basis may kindly be communicated to this Government at an early date.

Sd.xx
Secretary to Government.

SS/18.9.

18.9.

R Thiagarajan 21.8.86
SUPERINTENDENT.
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.